

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06314 031517Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8478

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6314

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IS, TPHY, PARM

SUBJ: NUCLEAR POWER AGREEMENT

A) STATE 234039; B) TEL AVIV 4568; C) TEL AVIV 3045

1. DESPITE LACK OF PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARDS QUESTION, GOI INVITED BIDS FROM US COMPANIES IN JULY FOR ISRAEL'S FIRST 600 MEGAWATT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. US FIRMS (GE, WESTINGHOUSE, AND BABCOCK-WILCOX) HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY FILED THEIR BIDS FOR REACTOR PORTION (NUCLEAR STEAM SUPPLY SYSTEM) OF PROJECT. THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION WITH RESPECT TO AWARD OF BID SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED BEFORE NEXT SUMMER. REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR TURBINE SUB-SYSTEM HAS NOT YET BEEN RELEASED ALTHOUGH IT IS EXPECTED TO GO OUT SHORTLY.

2. RE QUESTION RAISED IN REF A, ISRAELIS HAVE HAD DOUBTS ALL ALONG ABOUT WISDOM OF US ASSISTING EGYPT IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR POWER, AND WOULD NOT NOW BE PARTICULARLY KEEN TO FACILITATE US/ EGYPT AGREEMENT. THEY, HOWEVER, ARE APPARENTLY PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH US DESIRE TO HAVE COMPANION PROJECTS IN BOTH COUNTRIES. THEIR NEED FOR FINANCING AND THEIR DECISION ON REACTOR TECHNOLOGY (PWR OR BWR) AS WELL AS GENERALLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US WOULD SEEM TO ENSURE US AS SOURCE OF NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06314 031517Z

3. IN OUR VIEW ISRAELIS REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO
INCLUSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES AT DIMONA IN SAFEGUARDS
ARRANGEMENT. WE SUSPECT THAT THEY WOULD ALSO BE
OPPOSED TO SAFEGUARDS COVERAGE OF QUOTE FUTURE ACTIVITIES
AT DIMONA UNQUOTE,ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY
BE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT. ISRELI REACTION
TO US/EGYPTIAN DECISION DURING SADAT VISIT WOULD THUS
DEPEND LARGELY ON HOW DIMONA ISSUE IS RESOLVED.
TOON

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